



News Release

WISCONSIN ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Guard's Oak Creek field artillery battery ordered to active duty

Eighty soldiers of a Wisconsin Army National Guard field artillery battery will begin a tour of active duty this weekend. The soldiers are members of Battery B, 1st Battalion, 126th Field Artillery, in Oak Creek. They will report on active duty Sept. 4 and depart for Fort Hood, Texas, on Sept. 7. The unit will eventually deploy overseas in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom after mobilization processing and additional training at Fort Hood.

A community send-off for the unit is tentatively planned for Tuesday, Sept. 7, at 10 a.m. at the Oak Creek armory. More details on the send-off will be released when they are available.

The Oak Creek unit had been on alert with the rest of the Kenosha-based 1st Battalion, 126th Field Artillery, since April 9. The alert resulted in a mobilization order for Battery B earlier this month. The battalion's other units and approximately 400 soldiers have been released from alert.

With this latest mobilization, the Wisconsin Guard will have about 1,450 soldiers and airmen on active duty. Of those, approximately 320 are deployed overseas and nearly 780 others — including the Oak Creek soldiers — are bound for overseas missions. Another 300 soldiers of the Guard's 1158th Transportation Company are on alert for possible mobilization.

The Guard's remaining 8,340 soldiers and airmen remain ready to provide a wide range of military support in the event of emergencies in Wisconsin or to protect against terrorist threats in the state.

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